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CMPD may release full video after court Tuesday

BY TEO ARMUS, ANNA DOUGLAS AND JANE WESTER
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A "full release" of police body camera video from the deadly police shooting of Danquirs Franklin in Charlotte is pending, with a court hearing scheduled for Tuesday, according to City Manager Marcus Jones.

The issue goes back to court next week after a story by The Charlotte Observer on Thursday revealed there is an additional portion of officer body camera footage that was not released to the public. In response, community activists on Thursday demanded that city officials immediately release the additional footage and explain why only a two minute, 20 second excerpt has been made public.

A longer video, approximately 11 minutes, was shown to City Council members on Monday, the Observer has reported. But that video has yet to be released, and two elected officials who have seen it — Dimple Ajmera and Braxton Winston — told the Observer they weren't given any explanation or warning that the full video was not going to be released publicly.

City leaders are reviewing the way the release of body camera footage in this case was handled,

SEE VIDEO, 2A

"WE WANT FULL TRANSPARENCY — AND I'M NOT SURE WE CAN WAIT UNTIL TUESDAY.

Corine Mack, president of the local NAACP.

CMPD defends release of shorter Kerl video

JANE WESTER jwester@charlotteobserver.com

A memorial was set up for Danquirs Franklin at the Beatties Ford Road Burger King where he was killed March 25 by a CMPD officer.

BY FRED CLASEN-KELLY, ANNA DOUGLAS AND JANE WESTER
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The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department withheld nearly nine minutes of footage that a body-worn camera recorded at a west Charlotte Burger King when an officer fatally shot Danquirs Franklin, City Attorney Patrick Baker confirmed.

CMPD on Monday released two minutes and 20 seconds of video captured by the body camera worn by Officer Wende Kerl, showing her fatally shooting Franklin on March 25. The video appears to end abruptly after it shows Kerl shoot Franklin, who then slumps over.

But at least 11 minutes of footage was recorded on Kerl's camera. CMPD provided only two minutes and 20 seconds of that video to Mecklenburg Superior Court Judge Donnie Hoover, who held a hearing to discuss the petitions for release from three local TV reporters.

Asked whether more than two minutes and 20 seconds of video existed, Lt. Brad Koch told the Observer Monday: "All the video for this incident was provided to the judge." He said Thursday that was not right and then asked that all further questions be submitted by email.

Public safety spokesman Rob Tufano told the Observer Thursday that CMPD provided only the two minutes, 20 seconds of video to the judge. At least one of the petitions asked for "all body camera video of the incident."

The Observer filed a new petition Thursday for the rest of the video.

NARROW INTERPRETATION

The video provided to Hoover and released to the public ends abruptly as Kerl leans down toward Franklin, saying "I gotta pick up the gun," about 70 seconds after she arrived at Burger King and 20 seconds after she fired two shots at Franklin.

Tufano told the Observer that the two minutes, 20 second video complied with the petitions from WBTV, WCNC and

SEE BODY CAMERA, 12A

TOM BRENNER NYT

Attorney General William Barr, center, is flanked by a Justice Department aide and Deputy AG Rod Rosenstein, right.

Mueller reveals Trump's effort to thwart inquiry

BY MARK MAZZETTI
New York Times

WASHINGTON

Robert Mueller revealed a frantic, monthslong effort by President Donald Trump to thwart the investigation into Russia's 2016 election interference, cataloging in a report released on Thursday the attempts by Trump to escape an inquiry that imperiled his presidency from the start.

The much-anticipated report laid out how a team of prosecutors working for Mueller, the special counsel, wrestled with whether the president's actions added up to an indictable offense of obstruction of justice for a sitting president. They ultimately decided not to charge Trump, citing numerous legal and factual constraints, but pointedly declined to exonerate him.

"If we had confidence after a thorough investigation of the facts that the president clearly did not commit obstruction of justice, we would so state," Mueller's investigators wrote. "Based on the facts and the

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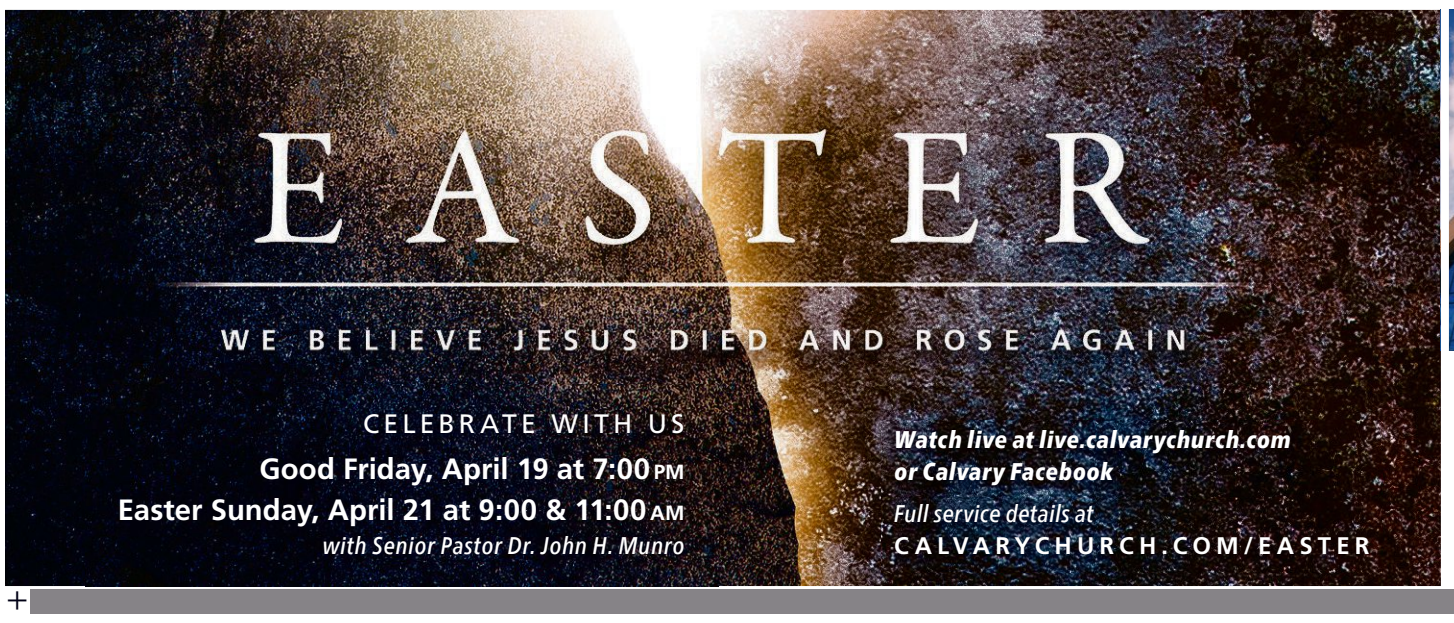

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